

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 07007 261435Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSM-03 ARA-06 ACDA-07  
IO-13 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 /108 W

-----262140Z 124936 /46

R 261346Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4320  
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
AMEMBASSY SANA  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 7007

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR EG ET CU  
SUBJ: CUBANS AND EAST GERMANS IN ETHIOPIA?

REF: CAIRO 5425

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFFS APRIL 26, MFA AFRICAN  
DEPT. CHIEF AHMAD SIDQI STATED THAT GOE HAD RECEIVED REPORT  
(SOURCE NOT MENTIONED) THAT 200 CUBAN MILITARY ADVISORS HAD  
ARRIVED IN ASMARA AND WERE QUARTERED TEMPORARILY AT NAVY  
HQS BUILDING IN CITY. GOE BELIEVES THAT EPMG MAY BE GEARING  
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UP FOR SUSTAINED OFFESIVE IN ERITREA AND THESE CUBANS  
COULD BE ADVANCE TEAM FOR SIZABLE INFLUX CUBAN PERSONNEL.  
IN THIS CONNECTION, HE SAID GOE RECEIVING REPORTS FROM  
HAVANA THAT LARGE NUMBERS CUBAN MILITARY DEPARTING CUBA  
FOR UNKNOWN DESTINATION.

2. SIDQI ALSO SAID GOE HAS HEARD FROM ELF OFFICE IN CAIRO

THAT ISRAELI ADVISORS HAVE RECENTLY BEEN SPOTTED BY ERITREAN QUERRILLAS ASSISTING EGHIOPIAN COUNTER-INSURGENCY FORCES. SIDQI REMARKED THAT SPECTACLE OF ISRAELIS AND CUBANS COOPERATING AGAINST ERITREANS REPRESENTED "STRANGE CONCOCTION", ESPECIALLY WHEN ONE CONSIDERED THAT MILITARY OPERATIONS IN PART FINANCED BY LIBYAN AID.

3. SIDQI ALSO NOTED THAT GOE HAS HEARD THAT AGREEMENT SIGNED RECENTLY UNDER WHICH GDR TO PROVIDE INTELLIGENCE/SECURITY TRAINING FOR EPMG. IN GOE OPINION, NEXT EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRY LIKELY TO BECOME INVOLVED IN ETHIOPIA IS CZECHOSLOVAKIA, ALTHOUGH SIDQI UNCERTAIN WHAT TYPES OF CZECH ADVISORS LIKELY TO BE PROVIDED.

4. WITH REGARD U.S. EXPULSIONS FROM ETHIOPIA, SIDQI SAID GOE NOT SURPRISED AND CONSIDERED THIS LOGICAL STEP IN EPMG'S MOVES TO ESTABLISH CLOSE MILITARY RELATIONSHIP WITH SOVIETS, WHO, SIDQI OPINED, INTEND TO MAKE MENGISTU "CASTRO OF AFRICA."

5. COMMENT: SIDQI, WHO WELL PLUGGED IN TO GOE LEADERSHIP THINKING ON AFRICA, APPEARED PARTICULARLY CONCERNED WITH WHAT HE VIEWED AS INEVITABLE EPMG OFFENSIVE IN ERITREA AND REPERCUSSIONS THIS MILITARY ACTION MIGHT HAVE IN RED SEA AREA AS A WHOLE. DEPT WILL RECALL THAT MONTH AGO SIDQI SAID GOE POLICY ON ERITREAN INDEPENDENCE WOULD BE DETERMINED BY EXTENT OF SOVIET GAINS IN ETHIOPIA (REFTEL). GOE MAY NOW BE CONSIDERING INCREASED SUPPORT FOR ERITREAN SEPARATIST MOVEMENT.

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EILTS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009